

Serial No. 09/190,309
Resp. dated October 27, 2009
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2009

PATENT
RCA89041
Customer No. 24498

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

a processor for providing an electronic program guide (EPG), the EPG operable by a user (1) to select a first program and a second program received from corresponding programs sources and (2) to select a first program processing function for the first program and (3) to select a second program processing function for the second program;

a tuner operable by the processor to receive (1) for the first program, first current time reference information from a first corresponding program source, wherein the first current time reference information provides information for synchronizing a scheduling clock with a clock of the first corresponding program source, and (2) for the second program, second current time reference information from a second corresponding program source, wherein the second current time reference information provides information for synchronizing a scheduling clock with a clock of the second corresponding program source;

the processor programmed to synchronize the current time of day of a first scheduling clock with the current time of day of the clock of the first corresponding program source based on the first current time reference information;

Serial No. 09/190,309
Resp. dated October 27, 2009
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the processor programmed to initiate the first program processing function based upon the first scheduling clock;

the processor programmed to initiate the second program processing function based upon a second scheduling clock; and

the processor programmed to ensure that the second scheduling clock is synchronized with the current time of day of the clock of the second corresponding program source during initiation of the second program processing function by synchronizing the current time of day of the second scheduling clock with the current time of day of the clock of the second corresponding program source based on the second current time reference information prior to initiation of the second program processing function.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first current time reference information provides a current time-of-day indication.

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the system further comprising a display for displaying a current time-of-day to a user;

the processor is operable to provide an output for updating the display of the current time-of-day based upon the first current time reference information; and

the system further comprises a filter for filtering the output to inhibit a discontinuous change in the current time reference information from causing a

Serial No. 09/190,309
Resp. dated October 27, 2009
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discontinuous change in the display of the current time-of-day, and for providing the filtered output to the display.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the first programming processing function is at least one selected from a group consisting of display, record and playback.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the group further comprises: program transmission, program standards conversion, program encryption, program decryption, program scrambling, and program decoding.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is programmed to terminate the second program processing function based upon the second scheduling clock.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the tuner is operable to receive STT data that includes a time reference indicator and associated correction data sufficient to establish a time of transmission of a program by a corresponding broadcast source accurate to within about plus or minus 4 seconds.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein
the tuner is operable to receive first current time reference information that is
based on a first time-of-day clock, and

Serial No. 09/190,309
Resp. dated October 27, 2009
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PATENT
RCA89041
Customer No. 24498

the tuner is operable to receive second current time reference information that is based on a second time-of-day clock, with the second time-of-day clock being unsynchronized with the first time-of-day clock.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the tuner is operable to receive:

first current time reference information that is based on a first time-of-day clock generated at the first corresponding program source; and

second current time reference information that is based on a second time-of-day clock generated at the second corresponding program source[;].

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the tuner is operable to receive first current time reference information that comprises time-of-day information.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is programmed to provide a first scheduling clock that is a time-of-day clock.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the tuner is operable to receive first and second current time reference information that comprises System Time Table (STT) data of an MPEG compliant data stream.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the tuner is operable to receive the first current time reference information from a first corresponding program source that is a broadcast source.

Serial No. 09/190,309
Resp. dated October 27, 2009
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14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the system comprises a central scheduling clock,
the processor is programmed to provide the first scheduling clock by updating the central scheduling clock with time information generated based on the first current time reference information, and
the processor is programmed to provide the second scheduling clock by updating the central scheduling clock with time information generated based on the second current time reference information.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is programmed to simultaneously maintain, for at least a period of time, both the first scheduling clock and the second scheduling clock.

16. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving, by an electronic program guide, (1) selection of a first program and a second program, the first and second programs provided by corresponding first and second program sources, (2) selection of a first program processing function for the first program, and (3) selection of a second program processing function for the second program;

receiving, by a tuner, (1) a first current time reference information from the first program source, wherein the first current time reference information provides information for synchronizing a scheduling clock with a clock of the first program source,

Serial No. 09/190,309
Resp. dated October 27, 2009
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2009

PATENT
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and (2) a second current time reference information from the second program source, wherein the second current time reference information provides information for synchronizing a scheduling clock with a clock of the second program source;

synchronizing the current time of day of a first scheduling clock with the current time of day of the clock of the first program source based on the first current time reference information;

initiating the first program processing function, for the first program, based upon the first scheduling clock;

initiating the second program processing function, for the second program, based upon a second scheduling clock; and

ensuring that the second scheduling clock is synchronized with the current time of day of the clock of the second program source during initiation of the second program processing function by synchronizing the current time of day of the second scheduling clock with the current time of day of the clock of the second program source based on the second current time reference information prior to initiation of the second program processing function.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the first current time reference information provides a current time-of-day indication.

Serial No. 09/190,309
Resp. dated October 27, 2009
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18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

filtering the first current time reference information and the second current time reference information to smooth a discontinuous change between the first and second current time reference information;

producing a current time-of-day based on the filtered current time reference information; and

displaying the produced current time-of-day.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein:

the first current time reference information is based on a first time-of-day clock, and

the second current time reference information is based on a second time-of-day clock, with the second time-of-day clock being unsynchronized with the first time-of-day clock.